

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ANGEL PIZANA,

Petitioner,

No. C 08-5462 PJH (PR)

vs.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE

Warden,

Respondent.

Petitioner, a California prisoner currently incarcerated at the Correctional Training Facility, has filed a pro se petition for a writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254. He has paid the filing fee.

The petition attacks denial of parole, so venue is proper in this district, which is where petitioner is confined. See 28 U.S.C. § 2241(d).

BACKGROUND

In 1993 petitioner pled guilty to kidnaping for ransom and was sentenced to prison for ten years to life. This petition is directed to a denial of parole on October 30, 2007. Petitioner claims to have exhausted these claims by way of state habeas petitions.

DISCUSSION

A. Standard of Review

This court may entertain a petition for writ of habeas corpus "in behalf of a person in custody pursuant to the judgment of a State court only on the ground that he is in custody in violation of the Constitution or laws or treaties of the United States." 28 U.S.C. § 2254(a); *Rose v. Hodges*, 423 U.S. 19, 21 (1975). Habeas corpus petitions must meet heightened pleading requirements. *McFarland v. Scott*, 512 U.S. 849, 856 (1994). An

1 application for a federal writ of habeas corpus filed by a prisoner who is in state custody
2 pursuant to a judgment of a state court must “specify all the grounds for relief which are
3 available to the petitioner ... and shall set forth in summary form the facts supporting each
4 of the grounds thus specified.” Rule 2(c) of the Rules Governing § 2254 Cases, 28 U.S.C.
5 foll. § 2254. “[N]otice’ pleading is not sufficient, for the petition is expected to state facts
6 that point to a ‘real possibility of constitutional error.’” Rule 4 Advisory Committee Notes
7 (quoting *Aubut v. Maine*, 431 F.2d 688, 689 (1st Cir. 1970). “Habeas petitions which
8 appear on their face to be legally insufficient are subject to summary dismissal.” *Calderon*
9 *v. United States Dist. Court (Nicolaus)*, 98 F.3d 1102, 1108 (9th Cir. 1996) (Schroeder, J.,
10 concurring).

11 **B. Legal Claims**

12 As grounds for federal habeas relief, petitioner asserts that: (1) The Board breached
13 the provision in his plea agreement that he would be paroled as soon as he became
14 eligible; and (2) his due process rights were violated by the Board’s reliance on the
15 circumstances of his crime to deny parole. These claims are sufficient to require a
16 response. See *Biggs v. Terhune*, 334 F.3d 910, 916-17 (9th Cir. 2003) (warning that
17 repeated denial of parole based on unchanging characteristics of offense might violate due
18 process); *McQuillion v. Duncan*, 306 F.3d 895, 904 (9th Cir. 2002) (due process requires
19 that at least “some evidence” support parole denial).

20 **CONCLUSION**

21 For the foregoing reasons and for good cause shown,

22 1. The clerk shall serve by certified mail a copy of this order and the petition and all
23 attachments thereto on respondent and respondent’s attorney, the Attorney General of the
24 State of California. The clerk also shall serve a copy of this order on petitioner.

25 2. Respondent shall file with the court and serve on petitioner, within sixty days of
26 the issuance of this order, an answer conforming in all respects to Rule 5 of the Rules
27 Governing Section 2254 Cases, showing cause why a writ of habeas corpus should not be
28 granted. Respondent shall file with the answer and serve on petitioner a copy of all

1 portions of the state trial record that have been transcribed previously and that are relevant
2 to a determination of the issues presented by the petition.

3 If petitioner wishes to respond to the answer, he shall do so by filing a traverse with
4 the court and serving it on respondent within thirty days of his receipt of the answer.

5 3. Respondent may file a motion to dismiss on procedural grounds in lieu of an
6 answer, as set forth in the Advisory Committee Notes to Rule 4 of the Rules Governing
7 Section 2254 Cases. If respondent files such a motion, petitioner shall file with the court
8 and serve on respondent an opposition or statement of non-opposition within thirty days of
9 receipt of the motion, and respondent shall file with the court and serve on petitioner a reply
10 within fifteen days of receipt of any opposition.

11 4. Petitioner is reminded that all communications with the court must be served on
12 respondent by mailing a true copy of the document to respondent's counsel. Petitioner
13 must keep the court informed of any change of address and must comply with the court's
14 orders in a timely fashion. Failure to do so may result in the dismissal of this action for
15 failure to prosecute pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b). See *Martinez v.*
16 *Johnson*, 104 F.3d 769, 772 (5th Cir. 1997) (Rule 41(b) applicable in habeas cases).

17 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

18 Dated: January 20, 2009.



PHYLLIS J. HAMILTON
United States District Judge